



# The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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## The Yucaipa Method Of Feeding Guppies

By Toby Ann Kotner

It is always interesting, and sometimes very informative, to discover the "HOW, WHAT AND WHEN" of another breeder's methods of feeding guppies. My plan is simple, direct and flexible.

The fish room lights are not on a timer and I usually turn them on at sevenish in the morning. The fish are fed four times per day if I'm home, but sometimes only a morning and evening feeding can be managed.

The first feeding of the day, about 7:30, is a light pinch of TETRA GROWTH FOOD to each tank. I'm not gung-ho on dry food, so that is it for the day. I never vary the dry flakes and find this type to be less polluting in my tanks.

About 9:30 or 10 AM, I feed decapsulated brine shrimp eggs. By making a week's worth at a time, the feeding ritual goes fast, and every fish gets these - including fry.

Fry are kept in nets and decapsulated eggs are placed on the plastic edges at the bottom by eyedropper. One has to learn by practice how to feed these eggs - mostly by observing the fish very closely at first. It's basically an educated guess as to the number of guppies in a tank - and their relative ages. It's highly amusing to find EVERY fish on the bottom after the first round of eggs. They finish in five minutes or so, and then I feed each tank a second time, but more lightly. If eggs are noticed on the bottom of a particular aquarium (some of my males are just TOO busy to eat, especially since I keep only one female in each male tank) then I don't feed those a second helping. I've found this method to be less expensive and to take a shorter time overall.

### The Formula

1. Put 3-4 tablespoons full of brine shrimp eggs in a straight-sided glass jar and fill half full with regular Clorox bleach. This allows enough room for the eventual foaming reaction between bleach and eggs.
2. Stir mixture so all eggs are moistened; then stir every fifteen seconds or so. In a few minutes a large quantity of foam will rise to the upper half of the jar, while the viable eggs will sink to the bottom. The jar becomes very hot but not too hot to touch.
3. SPOON the foam from the top. DO NOT POUR or the bleach will be lost as well. The settled eggs will be a dark red color by now.
4. Add another one half to once ounce of bleach and stir for about a minute more. None of the times are ultra-critical.
5. Allow the eggs to settle again and pour off the bleach.
6. Fill the jar with water to the top and allow the eggs to settle again.
7. Pour off the water and rinse the eggs in a brine shrimp net under running water until there is no odor of bleach.
8. Drain and put the blab of eggs in a small cup. Cover it with a small sandwich baggie.
9. Freeze it - and when ready to feed - simply drizzle three or four eyedroppers full of tank water over the top of the frozen eggs and some will defrost. Pop them back in-the freezer when you're finished.

The fish grow rapidly and their bellies stay round for hours. WARNING: if a large amount of eggs remain uneaten for a lengthy time, they will fungus. This is the ONLY drawback I see in this method.

One other item: although the eggs were thoroughly rinsed, the next day they may have a "bleachy" smell. I ignore it and have noticed no harm to my fish. I've been feeding decapsulated brine shrimp eggs over eight months and have noticed no harm to my fish. There has been no decrease in fertility or overall health, Getting back to the rest of the feeding schedule - at about 3 or 4 pm I feed the decapsulated eggs again.

Finally, around 8:30 pm, the fish are fed scraped frozen beef heart. By using a finely serrate, Knife, I am able to feed even the fry the beef heart. They are allowed to play for about an hour and a half, and then it's NIGHTY-NIGHT!

The beef heart produces sturdy bodies and the decapsulated eggs produce rapid growth. And, although I don't feed much dry food, my tanks are replete with algae.

Black worms are the only ones available in my countrified area, and though they produce BOTH fast growth and sturdy bodies, my fish seem besieged by diseases when I feed them. It's been over two years since they had their last worm.

I keep no catfish or snails in my tanks, and only sponge filters, so I feed plenty - but CAREFULLY.

My wild experimentation days with new foods are past and with good reason. Once I ordered two pounds of live meal worms from a bait supplier. Cost: \$12.00! Since I was afraid to see what they looked like, I waited two days before opening the box. I bravely shook them free of the damp newspaper and wasn't quite certain of my next move. I cautioned my husband away from the kitchen, rinsed the crawly things in a colander, and lowered it into a pot of boiling water to kill them quickly. It was DREADFUL! They snapped, crackled and



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meanwhile, I hope others can glean some tidbits from this article, and are encouraged to experiment for themselves. There are so many things one can blend with beef heart.

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